

2022 O Level P2

Text 1: Questions 1 – 4

The webpage is an **advertisement** from a local council, explaining the benefits of a low-traffic neighbourhood scheme and encouraging residents to participate in a community mapping exercise to help set one up. The four questions focused on **how the new approach would work** and how the webpage **encourages residents to take part in the preliminary mapping**.

Question 1 required candidates to **state the difference** between the new approach and previous attempts, and how it would work.

1a The new approach involves more types of road users, making it more comprehensive.

Markers' comment: **Question 1(a)** asked why it is described in the first paragraph as 'more holistic'. Although the paragraph contained plenty of detail to explain the meaning, most candidates had difficulty in relating it to the word.

1b. It works by discouraging traffic from entering the entire residential areas by confining most cars and other vehicles to major roads.

2i "quieter, safer streets"

2ii "easier access to your favourite local shops"

Markers' comment: Most candidates found the two phrases although some lifted too much from the text and blurred the focus.

3i Bus lanes (**Picture 1 is 'no-drive' areas as it's only for cyclists; Picture 2 =slashed off cars and motorcycles, so only buses can use the road; Picture 3 is mini parks.**)

3ii "mini parks"

Markers' comment: The majority of the candidates recognised them without difficulty.

4. The main aim of the webpage is to persuade residents to join the community mapping exercise.

Markers' comment: Many candidates chose a more general reaction to the benefits of the low-traffic neighbourhoods, without realising that the overall aim of the webpage was more precise.

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Section B

This narrative piece describes a visit by two sisters (Lucy and Clara) to their aunt's house on the island of Guernsey. Told in the third person, it **focuses on Lucy's thoughts and reactions** as she revisited the house after a long time away.

The text begins by **recounting Lucy's feelings** as she arrived at the house. It becomes apparent but is stated only at the end of the first paragraph that she had not visited for many years and had mixed feelings about returning now.

5. The phrase "felt a whole lifetime away" suggests that Lucy felt **distant and detached** from her home and felt that this place is unfamiliar and no longer a part of her life.

The phrase "it had been too long: she knew that" suggests **a sense of guilt** about returning home only after such a lengthy period as she was well aware that she had stayed away for longer that she should have.

The phrase 'How long has it been since you were here at the house?' suggests she was in a pensive mood, **feeling rather regretful** of her act of staying away from home for such a lengthy period of time.

Markers' comment: Only the stronger responses identified all three of the sentences that convey the feelings and explain each feeling. Most responses identified at least two of the sentences, but many **did not explain the feelings.**

6i. She liked the **beauty** of the layers of thick green ivy leaves blanketing the frontage

6ii. She liked the **comfort** the Ivy leaves brought when they turned russet colour in autumn.

Markers' comment: **Question 6** asked what Lucy liked about the ivy that covered the walls. The majority of the candidates answered correctly.

7. It was dusty.

8i. 'the only ornament in the entrance hall'

8ii. 'cast rainbow droplets of sunlight on the walls'

8iii. 'the blinds and shutters were closed'

Markers' comment: **Question 8** focused on the details of the description of the objects, and asked candidates to match re-worded phrases with the relevant words in the text. Most candidates were careful to give the complete phrase to cover all the elements of each item.

9a. She was surprised by the emptiness of the room.

Markers' comment: **Question 9(a)** required a generalisation which is given in the text among the details, and the majority of the candidates found it correctly.

9bi. The use of rhetorical questions

9bii. The writer uses repetition such as 'why no' to emphasise Lucy's surprise.

Markers' comment : **Question 9(b)** they were looking for **features of the writing** rather than content, they were less successful in identifying exactly how the writer manipulates the reproduction of Lucy's thoughts to achieve the emphasis.

Q10. Clara was impatient.

Q11i. Clara's hand went directly to the light switch

Q11ii. Clara purposefully turned right and opened the door of one of the two rooms.

Markers' comment : **Question 11** asked for two details that show Clara was more familiar with the house than Lucy. This required candidates to concentrate on the way her actions are described. The majority of candidates found the correct sentences but very many who quoted them did not focus on the precise phrasing that answers the question.

Q12. They were **pushing and shoving** one another jokingly/teasingly trying to vie **for a spot before the camera**.

Markers' comment: **Question 12** focused on one of those objects, a holiday photograph. It quoted that the four young people in the photo were 'jostling each other good-naturedly for a space in front of the lens' and asked candidates to explain in their own words what they were trying to do. Most candidates achieved this successfully; those who did not usually failed to incorporate the final part of the quotation.

Q13.

(i) Detached,

(ii) Reassured,

(iii) Puzzled,

(iv) Amused (not 'interested' – notice Lucy shrugged? That is hint that shows indifference and disinterest. Clara was the one who was intrigued and not Lucy.)

Section C

This is a factual article about the edible fungi known as truffles. As is appropriate at the Ordinary Level, the text is quite complex, with some high-level vocabulary, and needs careful reading in order to follow the description. Generally, the questions based on this text were well answered.

Q14i. aesthetically not very pleasing

Q14ii. not appetizing

Marker's comment: Question 14 asked candidates to give the two reasons from the first paragraph why people might not expect truffles to be so celebrated. Both reasons are clearly given in the text, and almost all responses quoted the correct sentences.

Q15i. Truffles are served in a charity dinner in aid of children's charities

Q15ii. Truffles are auctioned at the charity event.

Marker's comment: Question 15 asked candidates to give two ways in which truffles are being used to raise money for good causes. Whether they were answering in their own words or by quoting from the text, candidates needed to discard the many extra details of the specific event and offer just the basic actions that were raising money.

Q16. 'customised menu'

Marker's comment: Question 16 asked for the two-word phrase that suggests that the guests' next visit to the restaurant could be special for them in particular. A majority of the candidates identified it correctly.

Q17ai. Only a few of the many hundreds of species of truffle produce the aromatic gas that gives them culinary value. (**indicate scarcity**)

Q17aii. A truffle's intoxicating fragrance magically transforms the taste of food, making it unforgettable.

Marker's comment: Question 17(a) asked for two reasons why trying truffles is worth paying a lot of money for. A substantial number of candidates appeared to have confused the two sides of the argument and offered contrary reasons here.

Q18. Truffles and trees rely on each other to survive as truffles get sustenance from the ground, distributing it to the trees which reciprocate by supplying food that aids truffles' development.

Marker's comment: Question 18 asked candidates to explain in their own words what makes the relationship symbiotic. Many candidates just reworded the details given in the text, but a substantial number did reach the generalisation needed to explain the relationship.

Q19. Summary

Every summary has its own particular difficulties; in this one it was first the care needed to **include all the essential parts of many of the content points** without exceeding the word limit. In addition, the switch from growing to harvesting (from Paragraph 4 to Paragraph 5 in the text) had to be stated so that the following content points had the correct context.

Candidates who made little attempt at rewriting for concision were not able to fit in the full number of points, and sometimes lost coherence, especially in the second half of the piece, but there were some excellent attempts which well conveyed the candidates' understanding of both paragraphs.

Truffles are hard for farmers to grow because they need...

<i>From passage:</i>	<i>Reworked:</i>
1. they can only be <u>cultivated underground</u>	1. to be <u>grown</u> only underground
2. and only grow from seed-like <u>spores living on the roots of oak, hazelnut and chestnut trees.</u>	2. from spores living on roots of specific trees.
3. Truffles are fussy though, and require very specific conditions, growing only when <u>soil has exactly the right levels of moisture and minerals.</u>	3. The soil must have required levels of moisture and minerals.
4. Also, <u>a tree must be a certain age</u> before its roots start to bear truffles.	4. A tree's roots only bear truffles from a particular age.
5. There is also the factor of climate. For truffles to prosper, these demanding organisms <u>need warm, damp summers and cold winters.</u>	5. To grow well, truffles need warm, damp summers and cold winters.
6. such <u>perfect conditions can no longer be relied upon because of climate change;</u> this has resulted in a reduction in the number of areas rich in truffles.	6. But climate change has made such conditions rarer.
7. Another reason for truffles' rarity is the difficulty of harvesting them. As truffles are <u>buried too deep in the earth for humans to see,</u>	7. Buried too deep for humans to see, truffles are hard to harvest.
8. truffle hunters need to <u>enlist the services of foragers.</u>	8. Foragers are hence needed to harvest them.
9. However, in her frenzy to dig up the truffle, the <u>animal's hooves will damage the tree's root system,</u> making it less likely that the same host will yield truffles in subsequent years.	9. However, their hooves will damage the roots.
10. It is also extremely difficult to prevent such natural <u>foragers from eating the truffles once located.</u>	10. It is hard to stop foragers from eating the truffles found.
11. Finally, extracting the truffles is time-consuming, as <u>hunters have to dig them up manually.</u>	11. Extracting truffles is time-consuming: hunters must manually dig them up.